

**From:** Tommy Ward  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 11:44pm  
**Subject:** Fwd: Microsoft Antitrust Comments

>Date: Mon, 28 Jan 2002 11:46:45 -0800  
>To: microsoft.atr@us-doj.gov  
>From: Tommy Ward <tommy@msbit.com>  
>Subject: Microsoft Antitrust Comments

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>>

>>Dear Staff,

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>>As a 20 year veteran in the network industry, I would like to take this  
>>opportunity to provide my comments on the settlement of the Microsoft  
>>anti-trust case. My opinions are based on both my professional experience  
>>as well as my experiences as a consumer.

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>>First, the currently proposed settlement terms reached by Microsoft and  
>>Justice Department negotiators is completely inadequate to protect  
>>consumers. It should be dismissed out of hand.

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>>Second, controls must be put in place to guard against Microsoft's ability  
>>to leverage their current desktop monopoly into effective control of the  
>>public Internet. If they are able to dictate the terms and conditions by  
>>which meaningful business can be conducted over the Internet, this  
>>dynamic forum of social and business intercourse will be extremely  
>>stifled. What would constitute such effective controls? Rather than  
>>focusing on contracts with computer vendors (which might be a  
>>reasonable choice if we were concerned about the maintenance of the  
>>desktop monopoly), the controls should be aimed squarely at the  
>>integration of all Microsoft software -- both client and server, with  
>>no distinction between operating system and application -- with any  
>>Internet services provided by Microsoft. If Microsoft chooses to  
>>build support for authentication, payment, name resolution, routing,  
>>search, or any other useful functionality into their software they  
>>should be allowed to do so, as long as they do not also provide  
>>such service which is accessed by that software.

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>>An example of such integration which already exists is  
>>the Passport system, whereby multiple Microsoft application  
>>software products use common procedures to make use of an authentication  
>>service provided by Microsoft over the Internet. An effective  
>>curb on potential Microsoft abuse would be to disallow the company  
>>to provide the Internet service portion of that function. If such a curb  
>>is not implemented, Microsoft may be able to leverage their monopoly  
>>on Internet client software into a very effective control over Internet  
>>commerce. I suggest that the most effective method of implementing

>>such a control would be to force the company to divest all Internet  
>>lines of business other than those which are used to market and  
>>support it's software business.  
>>  
>>If effective controls are not placed on Microsoft's business conduct,  
>>this company will be able to leverage undue influence in practically  
>>every area of public life in the United States, including commerce,  
>>entertainment, news, personal correspondence, and government. Not  
>>only would such a situation be bad for business, it would be detrimental  
>>to democracy. We can not allow one company to threaten our  
>>future in the way that Microsoft will if allowed free reign.  
>>  
>>Regards,  
>>  
>>Tommy Ward  
>>Saratoga, CA  
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